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Table 1

Estimates of Shoulder Seat Belt Use From Annual Surveys 1980-1990

% of Car Drivers Wearing Shoulder Belts, Where Available*

Prov.	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	1986	1987	1988	1989	1990
Nfld	2.8	8.6	67.8	75.9	69.7	65.5	61.4	64.6	72.4	64.6	84.2
PEI	6.2	3.4	7.2	5.6	9.3	17.9	13.7	50.0	82.0	72.7	65.2
NS	9.3	11.4	8.7	12.1	20.2	80.8	79.8	68.6	73.4	79.1	83.4
NB	5.6	8.1	4.2	66.5	60.2	63.4	66.5	65.0	67.6	64.4	76.9
Que.	39.0	40.7	67.5	60.4	54.3	53.4	67.7	85.8	81.5	81.6	93.5
Ont.	43.7	52.5	48.9	60.1	61.9	66.4	65.9	67.6	70.3	70.8	71.6
Man.	6.0	6.4	7.0	11.1	61.6	53.6	61.3	64.6	66.0	79.3	73.4
Sask.	60.7	50.5	48.4	54.0	49.6	51.1	59.7	71.9	81.0	87.7	91.5
Alb.	12.7	11.0	17.1	18.2	19.8	24.4	27.8	74.3	82.5	44.6	88.1
BC	49.3	42.4	53.0	67.4	72.7	73.8	78.3	80.4	79.8	85.2	88.3
Canada	36.4	38.1	45.6	52.0	54.9	58.4	63.2	74.0	75.8	73.9	81.9

* Shoulder-belt fitting:

1980 - 95.0%	1986 - 98.7%
1981 - 97.4%	1987 - 98.7%
1982 - 96.8%	1988 - 98.6%
1983 - 96.8%	1989 - 99.1%
1984 - 98.0%	1990 - 99.6%
1985 - 97.9%	

Table 2

Estimates of Shoulder Seat Belt Use by Type of Vehicle in 1990

Province	Passenger Cars	Passenger Vans	Light Trucks	Total
Newfoundland	84.2	84.7	81.4	83.8
Prince Edward Island	65.2	62.5	37.1	61.5
Nova Scotia	83.4	82.6	67.7	81.6
New Brunswick	76.9	69.1	57.3	73.4
Quebec	93.5	89.7	90.0	93.0
Ontario	71.6	63.4	51.5	69.2
Manitoba	73.4	73.0	47.4	69.5
Saskatchewan	91.5	89.8	84.3	90.4
Alberta	88.1	84.7	73.2	85.5
British Columbia	88.3	83.0	73.4	85.9
Canada	81.9	77.7	67.6	80.0

Table 3

Estimates of Shoulder Seat Belt Use by Road Types in 1990

% of Car Drivers Wearing Shoulder Belts

Province	Urban	Rural*	Total
Newfoundland	84.2	89.7	84.6
Prince Edward Island	65.2	58.3	63.7
Nova Scotia	83.4	91.5	84.3
New Brunswick	76.9	84.1	78.3
Quebec	93.5	92.0	93.4
Ontario	71.6	73.2	71.7
Manitoba	73.4	84.0	74.0
Saskatchewan	91.5	88.3	91.2
Alberta	88.1	78.2	87.5
British Columbia	88.3	78.5	87.7
Canada	81.9	80.8	81.8

* Inter city highways or country roads

Transport Canada's latest annual survey of seat belt use was undertaken during the week of October 22 to October 28, 1990.

Results

For Canada as a whole, the estimated proportion of drivers of cars using the available shoulder belts increased to a record 81.9 percent in 1990 from 73.9 percent in 1989 (see Table 1).

Highlights of the results of the survey of passenger vehicle drivers for individual provinces were as follows (in rounded percentages):

- Quebec's 93 percent rate is the highest ever achieved by a province, up significantly from 82 percent last year. Saskatchewan's 91 percent rate is up from 88 percent, the country's highest in 1989. The rate achieved by the two provinces is by far the greatest level ever reached in North America and ranks them among world leaders in seat belt usage.

- British Columbia's 88 percent rate is up three percent. Alberta's rate almost doubled -- to 88 percent from 45 percent last year -- following the reinstatement of the province's seat belt law.

- Newfoundland's rate improved to 84 percent from 65 percent last year and Nova Scotia's rate increased to 83 percent from 79 percent. New Brunswick's 77 percent rate is an increase of 13 percent over last year.

- Manitoba followed with 73 percent, down from 79 percent last year, Ontario's 72 percent rate was essentially unchanged, and Prince Edward Island's 65 percent rate was down eight percent from 73 percent in 1989.

For the first time we have two provinces where seat belt use is more than 90 percent and two more where use rates are in the high-80's. They show the results of concerted efforts in the areas of safety promotion and enforcement by the provincial governments, police forces and road safety associations.

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Table 2 presents the survey results of shoulder belt use by type of vehicle. As last year, this year's survey also distinguished passenger vans from light trucks. The survey showed that the use of seat belts by drivers was 78 percent in passenger vans and 68 percent in light trucks from 65 percent and 52 percent respectively last year. Seat belt use by passenger van drivers varied from 63 percent in P.E.I. to 90 percent in Saskatchewan and Quebec; use by drivers of light trucks varied from 37 percent in P.E.I. to 90 percent in Quebec. These two categories of vehicles accounted for 24 percent of the vehicles included in the survey.

Survey Method

The survey was undertaken by observers at 178 urban sites selected by province, road type and community size, and was comparable to the samples used in the previous belt use surveys. In addition to these 178 sites, the survey was also undertaken at 22 rural sites (on highways or country roads), and the results from these sites are summarized separately in Table 3. A weighted combined estimate based on all 200 sites is also presented, for which the traffic counts on urban and rural sites are used as weights. The observation techniques in the survey were identical to those of the 1981 to 1989 surveys, in that observers recorded the availability of shoulder belts, driver's use of shoulder belts, daytime use of vehicle lights, weather conditions, type of vehicle, driver's sex and age group.

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